

XXI.—*Proceedings at the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1911.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union for 1911 was held at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London in the Outer Circle, Regent's Park (by permission), on May 10th. The Chair was taken, in the unavoidable absence of the President on account of ill-health, by P. L. Sclater, D.Sc., F.R.S.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Committee, which was then read, announced the continued prosperity of the Union during the past year. The Annual Volume of 'The Ibis' for 1910 (the fifty-second of the whole and the fourth of the Ninth Series) had been edited by P. L. Sclater, D.Sc., F.R.S., and Mr. A. H. Evans, M.A. It contained 795 pages and was illustrated with 1 photogravure and 9 coloured plates, 2 maps, and 8 text-figures.

With much regret the Committee reported the deaths of the following Ordinary Members since the last Annual Meeting:—Henry Scherren, Capt. G. E. Shelley, Dr. Thomas Wright, and Dr. A. B. Meyer (Foreign Member).

The following gentlemen had resigned:—Lt.-Col. H. F. Barclay, W. Ruskin Butterfield, E. H. Chapman, Frederick Gillett, Dr. A. Günther, A. E. Learoyd, H. B. Leigh, Lord Lovat, Hon. E. S. Montagu, Heatley Noble, and J. J. Baldwin Young; and the names of three members had been removed under Rules 6 and 7.

At the date of the Meeting the Union consisted of 419 Ordinary Members, 3 Extra-Ordinary, 9 Honorary, 4 Honorary Lady Members, 10 Colonial, and 19 Foreign Members.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31st, 1910, was then submitted and approved, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Henry Munt, the Auditor.

The Meeting then proceeded to elect the Officers for the

ensuing year, and it was announced that Dr. F. DuCane Godman, F.R.S., had been re-elected President, and Mr. J. Lewis Bonhote, M.A., F.L.S., Secretary ; also that Dr. N. F. Ticehurst had been elected a Member of the Committee in the place of Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, who had retired by rotation.

The following twelve gentlemen were then balloted for and elected Ordinary Members of the Union :—Christopher J. Alexander, 3 Mayfield Road, Tunbridge Wells ; Horace G. Alexander, 3 Mayfield Road, Tunbridge Wells ; Anthony K. Collett, 5 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C. ; Pelham T. L. Dodsworth, F.Z.S., Carlton Grove, Simla, British India ; Edward Hudson, 15 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. ; Reginald Hudson, 16 Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon ; Edward M. Murray, Woodside, Coupar-Angus, Perthshire ; William H. Patterson, 25 Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W. ; Charles G. Talbot-Ponsonby, 5 Crown Office Row, Temple, E.C. ; Reginald A. Tatton, Cuerden Hall, Preston, Lancs. ; A. Landsborough Thomson, Castleton House, Old Aberdeen, Aberdeen ; and Hugh G. Tyrwhitt-Drake, F.Z.S., Cobtree, Sandling, Maidstone.

The following two ladies were elected Honorary Members :—Miss Leonora J. Rintoul, Lahill, Largo, Fifeshire ; and Miss Evelyn V. Baxter, Roselea, Kirkton of Largo, Fifeshire ; and Victor, Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, Villa Tannenbof, bei Hallein, Salzburg, Austria, was elected a Foreign Member.

On the recommendation of the Committee Rule 4 was altered to read as follows, the additions being in italics :—

RULE 4.

No person shall be balloted for whose name shall not have been proposed on a form provided for the purpose by the Secretary and signed by the Proposer, on his personal knowledge, and by two other Members. *Candidates for Honorary, Foreign, and Colonial Membership shall be proposed by the Committee only. Ordinary Members wishing to recommend Candidates for these honours should communicate with the*

Secretary, who will bring the names of their Candidates before the Committee. The list of Candidates, with their Proposers and Seconders, shall be circulated among the Members at least fourteen days before the ballot along with the summonses for the General Meeting.

Mr. Ogilvie-Grant announced that the B.O.U. Expedition to New Guinea was now on its way home, and that it had reached a height of 5000 feet in the Charles Louis Mountains and had made large collections and important discoveries.

The following two motions, brought forward by the Committee, were put to the meeting and carried :—

“That the Committee consider it desirable that a new edition of the Union’s List of British Birds be prepared, and that a small Special Committee be appointed with a view to preparing the same.”

“That the following members of the B.O.U. be requested to act on the Committee :—The President, the Editors, and the Secretary ; Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant, Mr. H. E. Dresser, Mr. W. Eagle-Clarke, and Dr. N. F. Ticehurst.”

On the motion of Mr. Ogilvie-Grant the following resolution was carried unanimously and ordered to be communicated to the Trustees of the British Museum :—

“That in the opinion of the British Ornithologists’ Union it is essential that the whole of the land surrounding the Natural History Museum should be reserved for the extension and expansion of that institution, for which the land was definitely given to the Trustees in 1899, and that it should on no account be appropriated or used for any other purpose. They trust that the proposal recently brought forward by the Office of Works to use this land for other purposes may be reconsidered.”

Mr. E. G. B. Meade-Waldo proposed, and Mr. H. M. Wallis seconded, that the Secretary should send a letter to

the War Office asking that, if possible, the Territorial Manœuvres proposed to be held in the New Forest during May and June should be postponed until a later date, owing to the disturbance that would be caused to the fauna at that season of the year. This was agreed to.

A vote of thanks to the Zoological Society of London for the use of their Office during the past year was unanimously passed, and the Meeting was adjourned.

After the Meeting the Annual Dinner was held, in conjunction with the monthly Dinner of the British Ornithologist's Club, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street.

. XXII.—*Obituary.*

DR. A. B. MEYER, DR. CARL PARROT, and
MR. W. E. D. SCOTT.

DR. ADOLF BERNHARD MEYER.

ADOLF BERNHARD MEYER, whose death at Berlin took place on February 5th last, was born in Hamburg in 1840. He studied Medicine and Natural Science in the University of Berlin, and commenced his remarkable career as a scientific traveller and naturalist early in life, devoting himself specially to the Islands of the Eastern Archipelago, where he made many brilliant discoveries. In 1870 he commenced his explorations in Celebes and passed on thence to the Philippine Islands and New Guinea, where he ascended the Arfak Mountains and made a large collection of Birds. Returning to Germany in 1874, Meyer was appointed Director of the Royal Museum of Zoology, Anthropology, and Ethnography at Dresden. In this position he remained for the next thirty years, and made his Museum famous throughout the scientific world for its excellent organization and valuable contents. During